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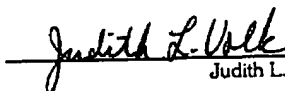
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AUG 05 2004

OFFICIAL

PATENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Patent Examiner Paulos M. Natnael, Art Unit 2614 at (703) 872-9306 on August 5, 2004.


Judith L. Volk

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Fengduo Hu, et al.
Application No.: 09/881,404
Filed: June 14, 2001
Group Art Unit: 2614
Examiner: Paulos M. Natnael
For: **Start/Stop Audio Encoder Apparatus and Method for Synchronizing Digital Audio and Video Signals**
Atty Docket No.: SONY-93

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

August 5, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This Amendment responds to an Office Action dated May 5, 2004. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.